

them. One simply states, "I have 3-year-old twins and a 9-year-old daughter, all of whom have been in Head Start and it has been a wonderful experience for them."

Another says, "It not only taught my daughter her 1-2-3s and ABCs but it also taught her self-esteem." And it concludes, "It has brought my family closer together."

Said another, "I cannot express to you how grateful I am for the life-changing experience Head Start gave to me."

Mr. Speaker, we must not change Head Start. It is too important, and it has helped too many people to improve their lives.

I am not simply speaking about what I heard. I worked in the Head Start program, first as an assistant teacher, then as supervisor of parent involvement and volunteer services where I got parents understanding that they could be in control of their children's educational destiny. These parents become successful parents in the PTA programs once they are transitioned into kindergarten. And that is what it is all about, involving parents in their children's education, helping them to know that they can make their children successful. So we do not want to mess with Head Start. We want to make sure, again, we support and nurture it.

CONTROL AMERICAN BORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TANCREDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to add another family to the list of what we are calling "homeland heroes." These are people who have faced incredible odds and very, very difficult times, who live on the border, northern and southern borders of this country, and are really in the middle of a war zone. And I do not use that term just figuratively. The things that are going on on our borders and the way these people are having to deal with them are truly worthy of note here on the floor of the House.

Tonight, I want to bring to the attention of the floor of the House Tom and Betty Jo Kuykendall. They own and operate a ranch only 34 miles from the U.S.-Mexico border of Douglas, Arizona. Their children and grandchildren have stayed in the ranching business and all live on nearby ranch lands.

The Kuykendalls are the heart of a 6-generation ranching family. For over 6 years they have lived in a war zone, as I say. All three of their grandchildren have been either threatened or physically attacked by illegal trespassers on their own property. When I say trespassers, I am not talking about folks who just are out for a Sunday walk. These are people coming across their property from Mexico and coming into the United States illegally.

It has been over the last 6 years that something has happened dramatically

and caused a dramatic difference. I should say, in the life-style of the people on that border. There have always been people coming from Mexico across that border, many of them illegal; but they have been in relatively few numbers. They will stop and ask for a job. The Kuykendalls in the past have offered jobs to these folks. They have gone on and come into the interior of the country. But in the last 6 years something has happened.

They are now coming across that border in hundreds, in fact, in thousands. The Border Patrol estimates that over a thousand people cross that border every single night in the area of the Kuykendall ranch. And what happens as a result of it? Well, their property is essentially destroyed. I was privileged to be a guest in their home, the Kuykendalls, and this is not too long ago, just several weeks ago. And, frankly, from their front yard, we could see people crossing their property, people coming into the United States illegally and crossing their property. You can see it any time of the day or night. It is, of course, more evident, more observable in the evening when the numbers become significantly higher than when there are people coming through in the daytime.

The Kuykendalls have had their dog poisoned because it had committed the crime of barking at the illegal trespassers when they came close to the ranch house. So their dog was poisoned. Illegal aliens have been caught trying to steal their horses, vehicles and ATVs on more than one occasion. One of the children's horses was stolen and found 3 days later several miles away.

A group of illegals accosted the Kuykendalls in their truck, beat on the truck and threatened them and ran only when a Border Patrol came on the scene. Some of the illegals who were apprehended were later proven to have criminal records as felons here in the United States, records of crimes ranging from murder to child molestation.

The Kuykendalls have personally observed and photographed drug smugglers crossing their land dressed in dark camouflage clothing and carrying assault rifles. The land itself is littered with discarded plastic bags, water bottles, and clothing items. The Kuykendalls' fences are torn down, gates are destroyed, water lines are cut, and unauthorized trails blazed by illegal immigrants while they trample the range land into bedrock.

These tribulations are typical of what all the ranchers in southern Arizona are experiencing to one degree or another. They suffer from a daily assault on their property and implicit assaults to their safety.

Tom and Betty Jo Kuykendall are trying to earn a living and raise a family by managing a ranch, which is hard work even in the best of circumstances. All of these assaults and intrusions on their property damage their property, cost these ranchers money, money for

repairs, for lost cattle, for damaged equipment, money many ranchers simply do not have; and several of their neighbors are now taking up bankruptcy.

The Kuykendalls have lived and worked under these outrageous conditions because we, this government, refuse to take the steps needed to secure our border. Unofficial numbers, as I say, from the Border Patrol say over a thousand cross every evening in that area.

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They know that that is actually a very conservative amount.

I hope that this Congress will take the steps necessary to secure the border. By failing to do so, we are betraying not only the Kuykendalls, but the liberties of every citizen affected by a growing tide of illegal immigration flooding across our borders day after day.

I salute Tom and Betty Jo Kuykendall and their children for their efforts in defense of their land, their property and their way of life and add them to the list of homeland heroes.

ACTIVE RESERVISTS AND NATIONAL GUARD STUDENT LOAN RELIEF ACT OF 2003

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BONNER). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to speak a little bit about H.R. 1168, which is the Active Reservists and National Guard Student Loan Relief Act of 2003.

As we heard the President speak last night, this country will soon be going to war, and we will soon be sending many young men and young women off to fight for this country. Some of these soldiers who will be fighting in the Middle East and around the world have attended school, have attended college. They have student loans that they owe back to the government, and my legislation is very simple. It does two things.

Once a soldier is activated, there is an automatic deferment of the loan, and the Federal Government will pay and subsidize the interest on that loan. I believe that is the least we can do for the soldiers that are going off and sacrificing. Many of these soldiers have mortgages, car payments, expenses. They are leaving their wives, their children behind, and many of them are taking a cut in pay.

I think it is a very simple piece of legislation. I encourage this body to pass it and include it in the supplemental. This was included and used by the first President Bush during Operation Desert Storm, and I think it should be promised to our troops today.

One example is that if a soldier has \$50,000 in loans taken out, that the Federal Government will step in and

will save this soldier \$2,600 a year. If a person is off, they are away from their family, they are away from their kids, can we please provide a little bit of peace of mind for some of our soldiers who will be over there?

I think the Active Reservists and National Guard Student Loan Relief Act of 2003 has received thus far strong bipartisan support. The liberals, the conservatives and everyone in between have supported this legislation, and I think it is because it is good for the soldiers and it is good for this country, and I think it sets a tone, Mr. Speaker, that we are behind our servicemen and women. We are behind our soldiers, and those of us who have been opposed to the war and those who have been supportive of the war, regardless now, our job is to support our troops, and this is a simple piece of legislation I think where we can put the talk into action and make sure that we provide a little bit of peace of mind for some of the soldiers who have been in college and have student loans.

I encourage this body to pass this piece of legislation, and it really should be included in the supplemental that is going to fund the war.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

FISCALLY CONSERVATIVE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I believe and certainly hope that our Armed Forces will achieve a quick and decisive victory in Iraq, and certainly we all hope that this can be done without the loss of even one American life and very few, if any, and hopefully no innocent Iraqi civilians, but every article we read, every analyst we hear says that winning the peace, the aftermath will be much more difficult than the war itself.

I know that people in the White House, the State Department and the Defense Department have been working on this aftermath plan for many months now. Because of something I heard on a news broadcast last week, I want to briefly discuss this.

Last Wednesday night, as I drove to a meeting here in Washington, I heard on the national news that the Baghdad stock market was booming. The report said prices had gone up more than 50 percent in the last 7 months because investors there feel that the war will be very short and that the U.S. will then spend hundreds of billions of dollars there over the next 10 years or so. Last week, the National Journal, a

very nonpartisan publication, said we will spend at least \$156 billion in a best-case scenario and as much as \$1.9 trillion in a worst-case scenario over the next 10 years in Iraq.

Already, big multinational companies like Halliburton, Bechtel and others are lining up to get part of the pie and to make sure that we spend this money in Iraq. If I and my fellow conservatives, who were so critical of the previous administration about nation-building, do not speak out against this, this will end up being by far the biggest foreign aid program in the history of the world.

The same people who have told us how great the threat from Iraq is also tell us the war will be over with very quickly. Iraq's military budget is only about 2/10 of 1 percent of ours, counting our supplemental appropriations. So this will be about the most lopsided war in history if the mentally sick, evil Saddam Hussein does not back down. Everyone should hope that we achieve a quick and decisive victory, as I said, without the loss of even one American life.

Service in our Nation's Armed Forces is one of the most honorable ways one can serve this Nation. When we put young American soldiers and sailors into harm's way, I know all Americans hope for the best and support our troops. I wish we would get in and get out quickly and bring our troops home as soon as possible.

I have never believed that U.S. foreign policy or military decisions should be dictated or controlled by the United Nations. Yet it is also somewhat inconsistent to say, as some have, that this proves the U.N. is irrelevant and maybe we should get out, but then say we have to go to war because Iraq has violated 16 U.N. resolutions. It is not fair, Mr. Speaker, to the U.S. taxpayers or the U.S. military to place almost the entire burden of enforcing U.N. resolutions on them.

Also, the Congressional Budget Office has predicted we will run deficits of \$1.8 trillion over the next 10 years. This is not counting State and local deficits. If we spend hundreds of billions in Iraq over the next decade, we will not be able to meet all our own needs here at home. We have already spent about \$25 billion or so just moving our troops, planes, ships and equipment into place. Also, most of our allies are demanding billions for their support.

If we do not become more fiscally conservative, especially in regards to this war, we may have difficulty in paying all our Social Security, Medicare, veterans' and Federal retirements and so forth. We could end up then doing what most governments around the world have already done, and that is a combination of decreasing benefits, raising taxes, or, most likely, inflating our currency, which means pensions will buy less.

Iraq should use their humongous oil wells to rebuild their own country. U.S. taxpayers should not have to pay our bills and theirs, too.

Conservatives have traditionally been the strongest opponents to turning our military into international social workers. Conservatives have also been the strongest opponents of big deficit spending, huge foreign aid programs, nation-building and world government. Most conservatives are against an interventionist foreign policy, but all conservatives unify behind our troops and support the patriotic young men and women who are simply following orders.

However, after this war is over, I hope my fellow conservatives will unite once again and urge that our troops be brought home quickly and that we in the American Congress start putting Americans first once again. Let us achieve victory in Iraq, but not follow that up with the biggest foreign aid program in history.

PRESIDENT BUSH AND THE REPUBLICANS' BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to discuss President Bush and the House Republicans' proposed budget. As my colleagues may recall, back in the year 2001, President Bush entered his office enjoying a fiscal surplus that no previous President had ever experienced, over \$127 billion in that fiscal year alone, a 10-year surplus projected at \$5.6 trillion. Our President also took office with an ambitious plan to provide tax cuts, the number of \$1.7 trillion.

Democrats warned that a tax cut of this magnitude and time would prove irresponsible. We warned that the tax cuts would reduce the size of the future economy, raise interest rates and prove fiscally unsustainable, but our President chose not to listen. Instead he squandered \$1.7 trillion of our Nation's surplus to advance his tax agenda, aiding a very small proportion of Americans, particularly the very wealthy.

By the summer of 2001, before the tragedies of September 11, our economy had begun to slow down, and our 10-year surplus was now down from \$5.6 trillion to only \$575 billion. I bring this point up because we cannot afford to ignore the connection between the current state of our economy and the President's first round of tax cuts.

Now that our economy is clearly faltering, Republicans would like to offer still more fiscally irresponsible tax cuts. How do Republicans expect to pay for the second round of \$1.7 trillion in tax cuts? By cutting the programs that are essential to our collective well-being and the well-being of our families.

The President's budget cuts domestic programs important to our livelihood while enacting tax cuts that will add to our public debt. More specifically, the Bush budget sacrifices the health of